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EVALUATION OF CONTENT

SOURCE

1. Under the letter head of All-Union League "Industrial Export Union", located at Kuibishev Street 21, Moscow, the Soviet office in Vienna wrote a letter dated 5 September 1947 to the firm Eternit-Werke Ludwig Hatschek, Vienna. The letter offers to sell 300 tons of asbestos broken down as follows: 15% of type #3, 15% type #4 and 70% type #5. The price will be \$300 per ton delivered at the Austrian border. Delivery is to take place during the first half of 1948. An irrevocable credit in U.S. dollars on the total cost must be placed on account in the USSR State Bank in Moscow. The offer is valid until 15 September 1947. All correspondence is to be addressed to Wohllebengasse 4 Vienna IV. The letter is signed by Kurepov and Sokolov, representatives of the All-Union League "Industrial Export Union".
2. The Austrian firm has submitted the Soviet offer to the Ministry for Trade and Reconstruction for decision. Asbestos is urgently needed in Austria for pipes, stoves, instruments, insulators, etc. Austria has been unable to obtain this commodity from Canada and South Africa and has requested a supply within the framework of the Marshall Plan. Eternit-Werke Ludwig Hatschek, Gmunden, American Zone, will stand idle and be unable to fill its orders from other Austrian businesses unless the asbestos is procured from the Soviets or other sources.
3. The Ministry is anxious to purchase asbestos, even at this high price, but is reluctant to approve the transaction without U.S. concurrence.

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